

sentry called "halt" and challenged them. The Royal Engineer Captain called out "Royal Engineer" and started to go on, but the sentry knew nothing of Royal Engineers and emphatically called "Halt" again. The Captains halted and tried to explain what the Royal Engineers were and what "R.E." meant, but it did not make much impression on the sentry. Finally he asked them "What is the Pass Word?" The Captain said "Blythe." The sentry replied: "Well I will be damned; that is not what they told me. They told me the word was 'Hot'." He then let them go on.

*July 30, Tuesday.* Spent a busy but quiet day in camp. I inspected quarters and stables. Prepared march orders, etc., for the evacuation of the several platoons on August 1.

Received word that 124 new men were enroute to fill up the regiment. I am now somewhat anxious to know what kind of men they will be. We had some fresh string beans today for dinner which tasted fine. Also lettuce.

I have been talking with some of my officers who have been working up at the front in regard to what the British are doing. The opinion seems to be that the 33rd British Division in the Southern part of our sector is doing splendid work and trying to get their line in first class condition, while the 49th British Division is doing but very little actual work. The Commanding Officer of the 49th likes to have raids made and consequently raids are made nearly every night at the expense of the work.

The British do not seem to make the same preparation for defensive or offensive that the French do, and nothing like what the Germans do. The British do not seem to be at all particular about getting things completed, consequently both in defensive and offensive warfare they are not ready with certain structures that should have been completed and which are necessary to the fullest success of either form of warfare.

In the present retreat or "strategic retirement" of the Germans they are playing the game much better than the British did in their retreat at Cambrai. They are taking heavier toll from the Allies